

Seventh Ward Chapel
(Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
116 West Fifth South Street
Salt Lake City
Salt Lake County
Utah

HABS NO. U-22
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UTAH
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. U-22

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SEVENTH WARD CHAPEL
(CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS)

Location: 116 West Fifth South Street,
Salt Lake City
Salt Lake County
Utah
Geographic Location Code: 43-1700-035
Latitude: 45° 30' 1" N Longitude: 111° 53' 37" W

Demolished 1967.

Statement of
Significance: This was one of the original 19 Ward Chapels in
Salt Lake City, Utah.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

Trustees of the 7th School District, Salt Lake City, Utah
(Pre-1875).

William Thorn, Bishop of the 7th Ward of the Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his successors
(August 18, 1875).

Corporation of Members of the LDS Church residing in
the 7th Ecclesiastical Ward of the Salt Lake Stake of
Zion (December 9, 1882).

Sixth-Seventh Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints
(October 20, 1938).

Fourth Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
(February 2, 1965).

2. Date of erection: Started 1862, completed 1877.

3. Architect and builder: Unknown

4. Notes on original plan and construction of building:
The building was originally one large room with a
small platform on the north end, and entrances on
north and south ends. Basement was one large space
used for classrooms. Cost of construction was \$12,000.00.

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5. Alterations and additions: The interior finish was originally plaster (on stone), with a painted decorative dado, but a softwood (painted) wainscot was added soon after completion. An enlarged wood stage with plaster proscenium arch, and vestibule at the front (south) entrance were added at a much later date. Basement was subdivided into classrooms and meeting rooms much later.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

The Seventh Ward is one of the original 19 ecclesiastical subdivisions of the LDS Church. Each subdivision was composed of nine city blocks, and was called a Ward. The original subdivision took place on February 14, 1849. The Seventh Ward was that part of the city bounded by Third South on the north, Main Street on the east, 6th South on the south, and 2nd West on the west. This chapel was one of the remaining original chapels. It was demolished during the period of this survey.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Abstracts of Deeds, Salt Lake City, 1885-1967.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Jansen, Andrew, "History of the Salt Lake City Seventh Ward".

Sanborn-Ferris Map Co., Maps of Salt Lake City, 1898.

"Through the Years - A Brief History of the Sixth-Seventh Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1849-1955", published by the Sixth-Seventh Ward Bishopric, Salt Lake City, 1955.

Prepared by John L. Giusti, AIA
August 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest: This was a simple pioneer meeting house - one of the earliest chapels of the nineteen original wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
2. Condition of fabric: Demolished - June 1967

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: With one story over a high basement, this chapel was rectangular, 31'0" x 60'7", with a newer vestibule addition.
2. Foundations : Red sandstone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red sandstone - coursed range ashlar at the front with a gradual transition to coursed rubble at the rear. Stone was painted light gray in recent years.
4. Structural system, framing: Heavy timbers set horizontally in the stone masonry supported the floor joists. Rafters 2" x 8", rough - 18" O.C.
5. Porches and stoops: A brick vestibule was added at the front after 1900. There was no evidence of the original front steps. A frame shelter protected the basement entrance on the east.
6. Chimney: Brick a later addition against the west wall, it probably dated from the installation of central heating.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: Removal of the front vestibule uncovered the original 15' high arched entrance. Hinge marks showed the original door leaves to be 11'5" high. At the rear there was evidence of filled door openings at both floor levels which may have been connected by exterior wooden stairs. A Sanborn map of 1898 shows a frame appendage at one of these locations.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows in the basement, fifteen-over-ten. Those on the main floor

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had 16 lights in the lower sash, the upper sash had Gothic muntins in the circular arches.

An arched opening in the front gable was filled with a sandstone plaque. At the top a beehive was carved in low relief and beneath was incised the words, "VII Ward Latter Day Saints Assembly Rooms". The plaque had been painted white and the beehive and lettering painted black. When the chapel was demolished the plaque was saved to become part of the collection of the Pioneer Memorial Museum of the Daughter of Utah Pioneers.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable - green composition shingles over original wood shingles. The gable of the vestibule addition had a slightly steeper pitch.
- b. Cornice: Cornices had dentils at front gable and sides but not at rear.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The main floor was originally a single room with a platform at the north end. A proscenium and stage were modern. The basement was unpartitioned until recent times.
2. Stairways: The interior stair at the northwest corner was relatively recent.
3. Flooring: Narrow boards running lengthwise were covered with vinyl asbestos tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Smooth plaster wall and ceiling - matchboard wainscot.
5. Window openings: Along the sides of the room - splayed. Those on each side of the front entrance had square reveals.
6. Decorative features and trim: The matchboard wainscot concealed an earlier stencilled dado of maroon and gray tones. The modern proscenium wall broke the continuous plaster cornice which encircled the original single room.

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7. Lighting, type of fixtures: Modern electric.
8. Heating: Central heating was modern. There was no evidence of probable earlier stoves.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation: The chapel faced south and was 90' north of the centerline of Fifth South Street.
2. Outbuildings: To the west was the Seventh Ward Activity Building, previously the Seventh Ward School and before that called Whittier School. It was built in 1885 with numerous later additions. To the east was a small frame building of uncertain date which contained a pair of doors assumed to have come from the chapel vestibule. Both of these buildings were razed at the same time as the chapel.
3. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: The grade level of an asphalt parking lot at the rear indicated fill in recent times. A drive ran along the west side and there was a concrete walk to the front steps. Two maples remain in the parking strip. A linden just southeast of the chapel shaded a marker which said, "Relief Society Centennial Tree 1942".

Prepared by Paul Goeldner, AIA
Supervisory Architect
Utah Project 1967
June 13, 1967